

Walteria News Notes

Girl Honored With Birthday Park Party

By BETTY MITCHELL. A very merry 13th birthday was in store for Miss Bonnie Ainsworth of Winlock Rd. when she was given a picnic party at the park. The party was held on Aug. 18, as 18 friends came to help her celebrate. Assisting the more than busy Mrs. Ainsworth were Mrs. Colleen Minor and Mrs. Delma Eastin. The tables were gaily decorated in pink and blue paper streamers, with matching dishes. Hot dogs, potato salad, and cool-aid helped make the healthy young appetites. Four prizes were awarded to the winners of the games. The cake and ice cream were greeted joyfully by one and all. Birthday cake, decorated in an original design by the mother of the honoree, was done in blue and yellow. The guests included Johnny, Carol and Jimmy Smiggs, Carol Leatherberry, Jimmy and Mary Miles, Claudia and Diana Farba, Marion and Melinda, Diane Ainsworth, Donna, Lee and Patty Minor, Bob by Moore, and Carol and Patsy Davis.

Mrs. Kay Grogan of 239th St. was hostess to Circle No. 2 of the WSCS last Tuesday evening when 12 ladies gathered to finish their study of the Bible and conduct business. Rev. Gene Gehres gave the lecture for the evening. Attending were Mrs. Fannie Beasley, Joyce Beers, Peggy Gehres, Gerrie Bowen, Bradford, Helen Herrera, "Hank" Tenney, Fern Trantham, Melba Burgener, and guest Hazel Co-gan.

Speaking of the Bowens, little Sandra celebrated her seventh birthday last week. The party for her was held at Banning Park. Enjoying the afternoon were Mary Lou Beers, Trudy Fitzpatrick, Janis Bowen, Cathleen McFarland, Susan Ellis, and Angeline Harner. Grandmother and grandpa, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Allis of Long Beach, also attended. Grandpa did walnuts in the park and did such a good job of it that some of the squirrels haven't found them. The birthday cake was done in chocolate with yellow trimmings and yellow candles.

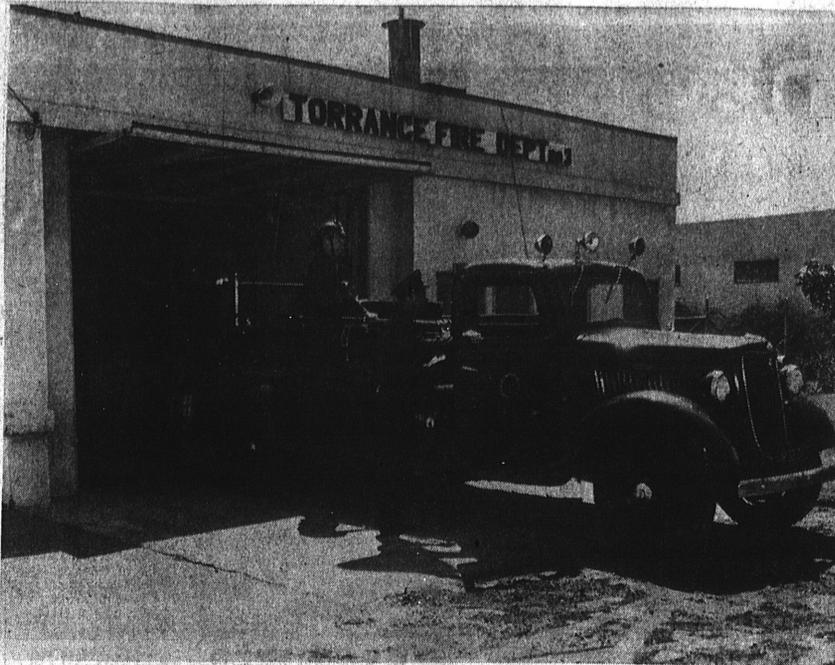
Mr. and Mrs. Don Dahl of Danaha St. spent a very pleasant, though wet, afternoon last Saturday when they attended a swimming party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beckley of Temple City. A luscious patio supper put a finish to a perfect day.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Taber of Hawthorne Blvd. left last Thursday afternoon for a jaunt to Las Vegas where they spent the weekend, arriving home on Sunday evening. Their trip was highlighted by visits to the "Sahara" and "The Sands," where they saw excellent floor shows.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Corey have been entertaining brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Corey of San Diego for the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Beers of military graveside services.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Monaghan of Danahy St. bid farewell to their many friends and their neighbors for the past three years when they left on Monday to make their home in San Diego where Phil will be stationed for some time with the U. S. Navy. They are selling their home here on Danahy St. since a Navyman's life is quite unpredictable in these days. They and their three sons have rented a house in San Diego for the present.



PROTECTION . . . The North Torrance fire substation, above, houses one fire truck and three firemen. Two of the firemen, Engineer Frank Tuttle and Fireman George Blahnik, are pictured above. These men are responsible for protecting an area two by two and a half miles in size—five square miles. The truck, the only one at their disposal, was purchased by the city in 1935 to be used as a city

garbage truck. It was later converted to a fire truck and now has a 100-gallon pump, which is large enough to be used on smaller grass fires. On any structural fire, help has to be called for from the main station—four miles away. A 1934 Mack truck, formerly used at North Torrance, is undergoing repairs at the present time. In the meanwhile, North Torrance residents are in trouble. (Herald photo).

St. and 101 Hwy. (The present Walteria station was built in 1933 as a "temporary building," with promises to build a new station "a short while later." Since then it has been slightly enlarged.)

4. The present McMaster Park Station should be relocated from 174th and Yukon Sts. to near 188th and Crenshaw.

5. There should be a fifth station at 235th St. and Arlington Ave.

6. There should be a sixth station at Spencer St. and Hawthorne Blvd.

Prevention Bureau on Way Hackneyed but true is the statement, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and this applies especially in the case of fire prevention. For many years Torrance has desperately needed a fire prevention bureau, and at last the city is getting one.

When the new fire marshal is hired, Fire Prevention will be his main duty. He will go to school in Los Angeles, to learn the latest in the field of fire prevention.

He will take regular inspection tours of all buildings in the city to see that they comply with fire laws. An important phase of his work will be the setting up of fire prevention schools, to educate the citizenry so that they can eliminate fire hazards.

Literature, Movies The fire marshal and his men will distribute fire prevention literature and visit various local service clubs to deliver lectures and show films of the prevention of fires and fire hazards.

Each man on the fire department will serve a regular turn on the fire prevention squad, to learn its method of operation. Thus alternating, every man on the department will have a full-rounded view of his trade—from prior to the fire, through the fire itself, and into the complicated procedure of investigating fires to ascertain how they started—also an important function of the projected fire prevention bureau.

Perhaps, in the future, Torrance can obtain enough points through establishments of a fire prevention bureau, and through the acquiring of adequate fire personnel and equip-

ment, to be raised from a sixth to a fifth class city, on the Fire Underwriters scale, thus lowering insurance rates considerably.

Point System The point system in the rating of cities gives a city 5000 points, then takes away points for deficiencies. Highest item on the point-rating board is a city's water supply—this is worth 1700 points if it is near perfect. Torrance's water system is very good; high pressure is maintained in almost every portion of the city or will be when the present improvements to the water supply system are completed.

Next on the point list is the Fire Department, worth 1500 points. Next is Fire Alarm system, which Torrance does not have, which is worth 550 points.

Might Make Difference—! A Fire Prevention Bureau, which Torrance does not now but soon have, is worth 300 points. Previously, Torrance scored a blank in this category.

Since a sixth class city is one which is rated at between 3001 and 2500 points; establishment of this fire bureau and improvements in the Fire Department might make the difference between Torrance's present status and the rank of fifth class city.

IF all the other city departments have kept up with the city's phenomenal growth, which we have already seen not to be so in the Fire Department.

Thus we come to the real villain in the piece—growth. This city is simply growing too fast for the city departments to keep up with it.

"City of Growth" Torrance, classified as the "City of Industrial Opportunity," should also be called the "City of Tremendous Growth"—an avalanche, snowballing type of growth, uncontrollable and swift.

Since 1940, Torrance has blossomed from a town of 9950 people to a city of practically 40,000, with an estimated assessed valuation of nearly \$70,000,000; a city that has growing space for a population of 140,000, a figure that, at the present rate of growth, could be reached by 1963.

Three thousand, one hundred and sixty-one building permits were issued last year in Tor-



GRASS FIRE . . . The first rule in every fireman's handbook states that the battalion chief should walk completely around any fire, see what he's got, and then supervise his men in putting it out. At a recent grass fire, however, Battalion Chief Gene Walker, above, found the fire getting out of hand and did not have enough men to control it, so he had to grab a hand pump and pitch in—white shirt and all. This is just another example of the shortage of firemen in Torrance.

Comparison To Other Cities Shows Danger

(Ed note—This is the second of three articles on the Torrance Fire Department. In the first of this series it was shown that the Department lacks the men, equipment and substations to protect this city's 40,000 people adequately. It was shown that, at a recent fire at United Sulphur Co., the local Fire Department had to call on every available fireman, equipment, plus help from Redondo Beach, to quench the flames. This left the rest of the city dangerously unprotected.)

Because of lack of men and equipment, the Torrance Fire Department had to cry "Help!" at the recent United Sulphur Co. fire. Luckily, the City of Redondo Beach has a rescue outfit, which was badly needed, and which the local firemen lack. Redondo Beach every time a couple of fires break out. In the two cities, we find that Redondo Beach is a city of approximately half the size of Torrance. Its Fire Department has 25 men, two substations, four fire engines, and a rescue outfit. Torrance should have at least twice as many men, pieces of equipment, and substations as its neighboring city.

Let's carry the comparison of Torrance to neighboring cities a little further. Inglewood is a good comparison. The City of Inglewood is seven-and-a-half square miles in size and has a population of around 50,000 people. Thus, its Fire Department has to cover an area only about two-fifths the size of Torrance, and protect about 10,000 more people than there are here.

Yet, the City of Inglewood far outranks Torrance in firemen, equipment, and practically every other area of fire protection. Inglewood has a Fire Department of 60 men, four heavy duty fire trucks in service and two in reserve; Inglewood also has an aerial ladder truck, a rescue outfit, an ambulance, and a squad truck that alone can take care of all small fires such as grass or auto fires, without help from the large pumps.

Inglewood also has three fire stations. If Torrance were even to attempt to compare with Inglewood, on the basis of area, we would have to have over 50 firemen, 16 fire trucks, plus a rescue outfit, ambulance, a couple of squad trucks and seven fire stations.

The excuse can be made that Inglewood, of course, has had a longer and slower growing process than Torrance, and has had longer to accumulate adequate fire personnel and equipment. Excuses like this one will make little impression on the Torrance man who is watching his house burn down and praying that the fire truck will get

there in time. What is to be done? Luckily, the City Council has seen the handwriting on the fire-wall. They have seen the need for more fire stations to protect this ever-growing city. At present, land has been set aside in the Hollywood Riviera section for a substation, and land has been purchased at Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St. for the eventual erection of new main station.

Main Station in Bad Spot Moving the main station from its present location is a definite necessity. Picture a huge fire engine, manned by eager men, whipping out the present main station on a fire call, and then being stalled in slow-moving traffic on narrow Cravens Ave. while somewhere a house is burning down. This is not some wild coincidence, it happens regularly.

The sad fact is that Cravens Ave. is too narrow to allow cars to pull over to let the fire engines through. Thus a dangerous delay is caused.

Stevens Agrees "There's no doubt about our need for more fire stations," City Manager George Stevens stated. Concerning the enlargement of the McMaster Park substation, Stevens said: "It has to be done."

But how, and when? Stevens thinks that it may take a bond issue to raise the money to build the necessary substations. Bond issues require a two-thirds majority to pass. That puts the problem right in your laps, voters of Torrance.

The ideal future setup of fire substations, one that would cover the territory adequately, is this, according to Chief Benner:

1. Main station at Crenshaw and Carson.

No. 2 Station, now at Walteria, should be moved to Hollywood Riviera.

3. A new station should replace the No. 2 station, and should be built near Madison

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